

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01138 181733Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----097181 181734Z /43
P 181700Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5759

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 1138

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER FROM JORDEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS/ PN, SNAR
SUBJECT: PANAMA'S DRUG ENFORCEMENT RECORD

REF: CHRISTOPHER/JORDEN TELECON

1. PURSUANT TO OUR TELECON YESTERDAY, THE FOLLOWING FACTS
SUPPLIED BY DEA PANAMA SEEM HIGHLY PERTINENT:
IN 1976. PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES ARRESTED 32 TRAFFICKERS AND
SEIZED 42,626 GRAMS OF COCAINE HCL. IN 1977, 41 TRAFFICKERS
WERE SEIZED AND 92,760 GRAMS OF COCAINE HCL WERE CONFISCATED.
THUS FAR IN 1978 (I.E. IN ONLY SEVEN WEEKS) 24 DEFENDANTS HAVE
BEEN ARRESTED AND 6,700 GRAMS WERE SEIZED. THE STREET PRICE
OF THESE SEIZURES WOULD BE MORE THAN \$22 MILLION.

2. DURING THIS SAME PERIOD (1976 TO DATE), PANAMA HAS EXPELLED
MORE THAN A DOZEN U.S. CITIZENS TO THE U.S. OR CANAL ZONE
IN CONNECTION WITH MAJOR CONSPIRACY CASES WITHIN U.S.
JURISDICTION. SINCE 1971 PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE EXPELLED
40 U.S. CITIZENS OR THIRD NATIONAL IN COOPERATIVE BILATERAL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PANAMA 01138 181733Z

ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS.

3. IN ADDITION, DURING 1977 GOP AUTHORITIES HAVE FROZEN SEVERAL
ACCOUNTS IN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL BANKS WHEN THEY RECEIVED
INFORMATION (FROM US) THAT THESE ACCOUNTS WERE OWNED BY DOCUMENTED
INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS. THE VALUE OF THOSE FROZEN ACCOUNTS
IS IN EXCESS OF \$10 MILLION.

4. THIS IS HARDLY THE RECORD OF A COUNTRY THAT IS "SOFT ON DRUGS." I AM TOLD THAT THE VOLUME OF COCAINE SEIZURES IN PANAMA LAST YEAR (1977) EXCEEDED THAT IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA -- WHICH IS CONSIDERABLY LARGER, A PRIME ENTRY POINT FOR DRUGS AND WITH AN ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY FAR IN EXCESS OF THAT OF PANAMA. THIS MIGHT BE CHECKED WITH DEA. IN ANY CASE, IT SEEMS TO ME THE ABOVE DATA COULD BE USED EFFECTIVELY BY OUR FRIENDS IN THE COURSE OF TUESDAY'S CLOSED SESSION.
JORDEN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DRUG CONTROL, POLICIES, DRUG SEIZURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PANAMA01138
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780076-0448
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780237/aaaabfll.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e9eb07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS, ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS, ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3549072
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PANAMA'S DRUG ENFORCEMENT RECORD
TAGS: SNAR, PN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9eb07d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014